

REMARKS

Claims 2-17, 19, and 20-25 are currently pending in this application. Claims 2-4, 19, 20-21 and 23-24 have been amended, and claims 1, 18, and 26 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §1.112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In light of the above cancellation of claim 26, this objection has been rendered moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because of the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, resulting in an improper definition of a process, i.e., resulting in a claim which is not proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. §101.

In light of the above cancellation of claim 26, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 18, 20-22, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hooper (GB 2234569).

In light of the above cancellation of claims 1, 18, and 26, and the amendment of claims 2 and 20-22 to depend from amended independent claim 4, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1, 2, 18, 20-22, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hooper (GB 2234569) in view of Wilder (U.S. Patent No. 5,967,452).

In light of the above amendment of claim 3 to depend from amended independent claim 4, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hooper (GB 2234569) in view of Applicant's admission of prior art.

In light of the above amendments to claims 20-21 and the cancellation of claim 26, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner is thanked for his indication of the allowability of claims 4-17 and 19 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claims 4 and 19 have been amended to including the base claim and any intervening claims in order to place them in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 4-17 and 19 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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